



ONTARIO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY 3RS CODE OF PRACTICE

January 1993

The Ontario construction industry has adopted this Code of Practice relating to the 3Rs of waste management: **REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE**. This Code will give the construction industry a point of reference from which to coordinate its activities. The Code demonstrates the commitment to working toward sustainable development, recognizing the need to balance environmental and economic considerations. The Code outlines the commitment of the Ontario construction industry to responsible management of its waste stream and material resources. The Code is not intended to be a comprehensive document establishing a construction industry standard for the 3Rs of waste management.

The Ontario construction industry will promote strategies to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. This commitment goes beyond simple compliance with the letter and spirit of the law: it involves a commitment to leadership by taking the initiative to employ advanced material management techniques.

Construction industry members are encouraged to consider implementing the following principles and initiatives to the extent practical, recognizing members' individual business and operating constraints:

REDUCE

- * promote the Ontario construction industry's commitment to reduce the waste stream;
- * incorporate 3Rs waste management considerations into the preplanning of projects;
- * investigate construction techniques, technologies and design which produce less waste;
- * target factors which contribute to excessive waste generation;
- * consider purchasing options that minimize packaging and product waste;
- * purchase construction materials in dimensions and quantities to satisfy project requirements; and
- * avoid damage of construction materials by proper on-site handling and storage.

REUSE

- * consider methods of reusing materials on-site where appropriate;
- * separate materials on-site for reuse purposes where appropriate;
- * strip reusable materials out of buildings during demolition and renovation if practical; and
- * network locally to identify markets for reusable materials.

RECYCLE

- * investigate methods of recycling material resources;
- * separate materials on-site for recycling purposes where practical;
- * use recycled-content and recyclable construction materials;
- * cooperate with private and government initiatives to divert recyclables from disposal;
- * be knowledgeable of local recycling facilities and technologies; and
- * network locally to identify markets for recyclable materials.

THE 3RS CODE OF PRACTICE HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:

Canadian Standards Association
Council of Ontario Construction Associations
Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario
Grand Valley Construction Association
Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association
Heavy Construction Association of Toronto
Independent Contractors Group
London & District Construction Association
Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario
Metro Toronto Demolition Contractors Association
Niagara Construction Association
Ontario General Contractors Association
Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association
Ontario Home Builders' Association
Ontario Industrial Roofing Contractors Association
Ontario Painting Contractors Association
Ontario Sewer & Watermain Contractors Association
Ottawa Construction Association
Provincial Building & Construction Trades of Ontario
Sarnia Construction Association
Sudbury Construction Association
Toronto Construction Association
Utility Contractors Association of Ontario

with the assistance of the Ministry of the Environment Waste Reduction Office

